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THE VOICE OF
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AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

30c



Jimmy Rooney (No. 9) in full flight against Ferencvaros.

Bravo Boskovic!

Don't be surprised if you see Australia's top referee, Tony Boskovic, running the line of at least five games prior to his departure to the World Cup finals.

Boskovic, 41, last week achieved the ambition of a life-time when his name appeared amongst the 30 referees who will officiate in West Germany.

His appointment is not only a just reward for a world-class referee, but also a tribute to Australian soccer, which thus achieves a wonderful double in having both its national team and a referee in the World Cup finals.

Only nine of the 16 finalists will provide a referee in the finals.

Boskovic will referee at least one match in the finals and appear several times as a linesman.

There's no reason why he shouldn't be as successful as

Israeli Abraham Klein was in Mexico where he refereed England v. Brazil to everyone's satisfaction.

FIFA, feeling that most top referees have lacked experience as linesmen in recent years, will instruct Boskovic to get the "feel" of the line five times before he leaves for Germany.

Boskovic will arrive in Germany two weeks before the kick-off to attend conferences and films aimed to get a more uniform interpretation of the laws in the finals.

This will be the practice before every World Cup following the successful two-week referees' camp in Mexico in 1970 which resulted in first-class refereeing right through the series.

QUO VADIS, AUSTRALIA?

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The financial success of Ferencvaros' two matches against Australia should encourage the ASF to provide more sparring-partners for the Socceroos before they leave Australia on May 20.

The teams played to a packed house at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium and in Sydney last Sunday, despite atrocious weather, nearly 16,000 turned up to watch the scoreless draw.

The two games against the Hungarians will prove quite useless unless the national team gets some back-up matches before their departure.

Quo vadis, Australia? Where does the team go from here?

The match against an Auckland XI, on March 20, cannot be regarded as a true test for the Socceroos.

We are delighted to have the Kiwis in our midst, but the Australian team needs something more substantial in the way of trial horse.

The Aucklanders will provide nothing like the opposition they will face in Hamburg and West Berlin.

In April all that's planned at this stage for the Socceroos are two games against the Australian under-23 team, before and after its Indonesian tour.

Our World Cup players cannot be expected to treat those matches with the same seriousness as they would against European or South American opposition.

Auckland and the under-23s may provide spirited opposition, but those matches will do little to prepare the national team mentally and psychologically for the stiffer tasks ahead.

It is not too late for the ASF to rethink its pathetically inadequate pre-World Cup plans.

I am sure that a couple of South American teams can be lured to Australia, let alone a full Asian national team, say North Korea, with whom Australia is about to exchange ambassadors.

The Ferencvaros tour, which, incidentally, was sponsored by the NSW Federation, not the ASF, has shown that there is a "market" now for the Australian team.

GOOD DRAW

Australia's 1973 World Cup campaign has fired the imagination of the Australian public at large, as the capacity crowd in Adelaide showed.

Even if the ASF had to outlay \$65,000 to bring out a South American side, the money could be recouped at the gate.

Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane would draw 15,000 spectators to watch the Socceroos and at least 20,000 can be expected in Sydney where South American teams have always drawn well.

But even if there should be a loss, so what? Can you think of a better "cause"?

To get used to the World Cup tempo of three matches in eight days, Australia could play, say, on a Wednesday in Adelaide, Friday in Sydney and again on the

Wednesday in Brisbane or Melbourne.

Sydney clubs with two or more players in the Australian team could, naturally, seek a deferment of their league matches.

That's the least the NSW Federation can do to assist the Australian team's World Cup preparation.

The way things are shaping at the moment, I have a horrible suspicion that it may be 1965 all over again.

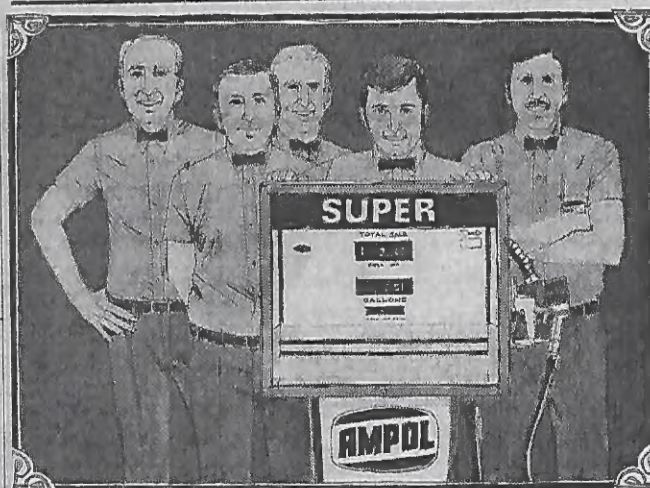
Then, our totally inadequate preparation led to the Phnom-Penh disaster against North Korea.

It took another haphazard World Cup campaign in 1969 to drive the point home to officials that only a rational build-up would ever get Australia into the World Cup.

That the lesson was finally learnt was proved last year when the Socceroos, enjoying at last first-class training conditions, conquered Asia to win a place in the 1974 finals.

Will Australia have to be humiliated in West Germany before the same effort is put into preparing our team for the finals — if and when we reach them again?

Wouldn't it be saner to do everything in our power to ensure that the Australian team will function at maximum capacity in Germany rather than wait for the inevitable hidings before we mend our wayward ways?



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Wednesday, February 20: Ampol Cup: Yugal-Prague v. Auburn — Garside Park, 7.45 p.m.

Follow your club! Visit your club! Become a member! — Follow our programme in this paper every week. —

club patrol

KEVIN WOODS, the former Bankstown halfback, passed away suddenly a fortnight ago. Kevin, who was only 36, started his career with Hurstville. He was a member of the 1960 Bankstown Ascot Cup-winning side. A benefit night is being arranged by the Bankstown Soccer Club Ltd. for his wife and two children.

The Premier of South Australia, DON DUNSTAN, was guest of honor at last week's Australia v. Ferencvaros match in Adelaide. He spoke to the capacity crowd before the kick-off and mixed with the players after the game.

ATTILA ABONYI's father had the thrill of a lifetime last week. A fanatical Ferencvaros supporter, he entertained the visitors in his Melbourne home after the Hungarians' match against Victoria. The house was draped in Ferencvaros' colors.

MICHAEL ALAGICH, the former Yugal forward, is now teaching at Killarney High School. His cousin, soccer coach Richard, has taken up an appointment at Forest High School, and his father Maron teaches at Manly High. Maron, of course, has been a prominent Yugal official for years. His brother Rudolph has been one of the pillars of soccer in Broken Hill, and another brother Len has served on the executive of the South Australian Federation. A great family record in building up the code!

STEVE HESFORD, Saffway's South African-born goalkeeper from England, is a firm recommendation to the club from the great Jimmy Kelly. Recruiting is certainly Jim's game. He sent Saffway John Bingham and Robert Fryer (from Birmingham City reserves), Willie McGroarty (10 games with Blackpool first team), and David Allison (Workington) as well. Saffway's policy is to sign them young and experienced.

Australia has again missed out on a top free transfer-listed British player. ALAN GILZEAN, Tottenham's great Scottish veteran, like so many of his fellow professionals has decided to play in South Africa despite Western Suburbs' attractive terms.

Amongst the players who are knocking at the door with Pan Hellenic is one with a good Greek ring to his name. JOHN IKONOMOU is trying to force his way up into the top side. He previously played with the Eumore club.

ROSS BROWN, who played inter-suburban soccer with Belmore last year, shapes up as one of the bright new faces of First Division this season. Young Brown helped himself to two fine goals against Yugal-Prague a fortnight ago and certainly looks the goods.

Croatia finished last season with a capable, hard-to-best side, and the benefit of their build-up is clearly seen in the confident way in which they have stepped into things this year. Re-signing of BILL VOITEK represents a big gain for the club, and all eyes are glued on big John Doyle. If he is in early form, the club will be a hard nut to crack this season.

Young STEPHEN LEAK may have found his regular place in the Auburn first team. English-born, Leak should gain plenty from coach Joe Marston, who is well capable of passing on some good tips on the midfield and defensive roles.

Training for the CASTEL-LORIAN Soccer Club takes place each Sunday morning at Turruwui Park, Rosebery, at 9 a.m.

SAVERIO MADESCI this year looks a far fitter and more confident goalkeeper prospect than he did last year, which was his first year over from Western Australia. MadeSCI failed to gain selection for West's trip to Indonesia last October, as it was feared that he might not be

backing up in Sydney in '74. Hakoah coach David MacLaren recognised his potential, and he is gaining first-team experience so that the club will have both MadeSCI and Martin Coe ready for the big campaign ahead.

Saffway United is hoping to see GARY TUCKERMAN, 21, well in the running for selection for the Australian under-23 team for the Indonesian tour in March. Gary has started the season in a very confident vein.

GREG BYLES, West's midfielder, is aiming to show all his capabilities this year. As well as having been married during the closed season, Greg has completed his examinations as a solicitor.

Yugal-Prague defender RAY ROOTSEY, who hasn't missed many first-grade games for the past five seasons, won't be seen in Sydney for the next 12 months. A civil engineer with the Public Works Department, Rootsey has been transferred suddenly to Bega by his employers. He expects to be back in Sydney next year, though.

Sutherland defeated APIA 2-0 in a FRIENDLY game last Friday night.

Federation life member ANDY BURTON, famous for his days with the Canterbury Club, is now a resident of Gladstoneville.

National Coaching Director ERIC WORTHINGTON had hoped to spend four weekends in Melbourne at the recent senior coaching course. He completed two, and then had to be ready to trip off to Chile to observe football there and report back to Rale Rasic. Apart from the course commitments in his diary, he will be getting things ready for the Australian under-23 tour to Indonesia immediately upon his return.

SHAY GLEESON, Saffway's controversial defender, last week signed a two-year contract with the club, which was in danger of losing the talented defender to Croatia. Gleeson had been granted a free transfer at the end of

last season, but negotiations he had with Wests, Marconi and APIA fell through before Croatia stepped in. With Gleeson finally deciding to remain at Woonona, Peter Wilson must introduce the tall Irishman into the side as soon as possible. Though not fully fit, Gleeson would solve one of United's many problems.

It may be another week before the NSW Executive decides what to do about the DISTURBANCE at Garside Park last Friday week. Last week it interviewed several witnesses and then adjourned till next week. The Executive did not meet this week because of Tuesday's St. George v. Ferencvaros match.

Italian referee MARIO BERETTA wants to exchange club badges with soccer followers in Australia. He possesses one of the world's largest collections and is keen to contact anybody interested in exchanges. Mario's address is: Via Carlo Foldi 6, Milan 20135 (Italy).

2 GB's PETER HAZEL-WOOD and Annette Love will be married on February 23 at Picton. Our congratulations.

The BEEF and BURGUNDY Club last week collected a \$50 donation for the Ipswich Junior Club, which was damaged in the recent flood. Brian Grosse will donate a further \$50 if it is matched by a similar amount. Donations for this worthy cause can be sent to The Secretary/Treasurer, Beef and Burgundy Club, 8 Pindari Place, Arncliffe.

The IDSA has made application to be included on the itinerary when (and if) Chelsea and Aberdeen tour Australia this year. The Illawarra Association has applied for a Sunday date.

Keen to further stimulate soccer in their district, the KU-RING-GAI COACHES ASSOCIATION will open the season's activities with outstanding speakers and demonstrators in the assembly hall of the St. Ives Public School on Friday, February 22, at 8 p.m. All are invited to attend Eric Worthington will be assisting, and other top coaches, David MacLaren, Rale Rasic and Mike Johnson have promised they will be available for future talks. Ku-ring-gai coaches planned fortnightly meetings for nine months of the year.

ILLAWARRA UNHAPPY OVER STATE CUP

Officials of the Illawarra District Soccer Association feel that their body is being discriminated against following the release of the State Cup format.

Tony MacDonald, I.D.S.A. secretary, forwarded a strong letter of protest to Aulden Brown, secretary of the NSW Federation when the plan was announced.

"The placement of Federation Second and Third Division clubs above I.D.S.A. sides was totally unfair," MacDonald said.

"Our organisation concedes to the seeding of First Division clubs, but it would be a far better promotion to have Second and Third Division clubs in the hat with the rest of group 'A'."

I agree with MacDonald's remarks, especially in the light of the results achieved by Bellambi and Bulli in the State and Amateur Cups of recent years.

The State Cup, now a rich event, would be better run closer to the lines of the English FA Cup and have more giant-killing appeal for the public.

After all, the Sydney soccer scene could do with a few fresh faces. Bellambi's efforts in the 1971 and '72 Cups proved

the highlight of two otherwise dull competitions. Northern NSW's greater representation in the State Cup is another factor which irks the I.D.S.A.

Corrimal Rangers and Bellambi will be the Illawarra representatives in this year's State Cup. Rangers, a club with a great tradition, won the "double" last season and would more than hold their own against any Second Division side, Balgownie included.

Bellambi are now only a shadow of the 1971 team and coach Bob Young resigned at the end of last season.

Figtree are the second strongest side in the I.D.S.A. competition and they will take part in the State Cup should Bellambi withdraw.

Figtree, like Corrimal, would finish in the Second Division "top four."

A better deal for the "minnows" would mean a more successful Cup which could be a real winner with the right promotion.

— PAUL POSETTI

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WORLD CUP NEWS AND VIEWS



POLICE GUARD FOR EAST GERMANS, CHILEANS

— From HANS SCHMIDT in Frankfurt —

Australia's World Cup group is giving West German police a king-size headache.

They fear demonstrations against both East Germany and Chile — by opposite political factions.

Right-wing organisations have already announced they would stage rallies against East Germany while left-wing groups are certain to protest against the military coup which overthrew the Marxist regime of former President Salvador Allende last year.

The East Germans are so worried about demonstrations that they were even considering setting up their headquarters in East Germany — at Schwerin — and only fly to Hamburg and West Berlin for their matches.

RULES

This, however, is against FIFA rules, which stipulate that all World Cup finalists must remain in the organising World Cup country for the duration.

East Germany has yet to decide on accommodation and training sites in West Germany.

They were keen on Ochsensoll, but the Australians stepped in first and will live and train there for their two matches in Hamburg.

East German officials are now in West Germany looking over living quarters in Hamburg and West Berlin and are expected to confirm their choice to the organisers by the weekend.

The Chileans, worried over security arrangements, have been advised by West Berlin police to take over two storeys of the Schloss Glienicke hotel, situated in the midst of a forest.

The Chileans play all their matches in the former German capital and will be under police guard during their entire stay there — a must because West Berlin is the stronghold of radical groups in West Germany.

The Chilean Government is reported to have grave reservations about the efficiency of the German police.

They don't seem to have too much confidence in their hosts' ability to protect their players.

A Santiago newspaper last week recalled the poor security arrangements which led to the Munich Olympic tragedy and strongly recommended its soccer team to take its own armed guards with them.

The West German Government will veto any "private" security arrangements and has full confidence in its own men.

Talks are believed to be still going on at government level between the two countries to ensure the Chileans have maximum security.

The Australians are sure to be the pin-up boys of the German police force.

Without an enemy in the world, they will be easy to protect.

The Brazilians' World Cup residence will be the Rosengarten Hotel at Hofheim in Taunus, north of Frankfurt.

Before the kick-off of the series they will spend almost one month training in the Black Forest.

The West Germans have chosen Malente, in Schleswig-Holstein, near the Danish border.

It was there their 1966 World Cup squad trained before leaving for England.



Peter Dukes (above) obtained most votes in a referendum conducted by the newspaper "Neue Fussball Woche" to find their readers' choice for East Germany's World Cup team.

According to the poll, East Germany's ideal team, to play Australia in Hamburg on June 14, would be:

Croy (Zwickau), Sekora (Lokomotive Leipzig), Bransch (Jena), Weise (Jena), Fritzsche (Lokomotive Leipzig), Stein (Jena), Lauck (Dynamo East Berlin), Frenzel (Lokomotive Leipzig), Loeve (Lokomotive Leipzig), Dukes (Jena), Vogel (Jena).

The big shock is the omission of midfielder Kreische, who has only resumed training last month after a serious leg injury.

BRAZIL'S SQUAD NAMED NEXT WEEK

Brazil's manager Mario Zagallo is expected to announce his squad of 22 players on February 18.

From then on he will make changes only in cases of injury.

Immediately after February 18, the players will go into a training camp to prepare for a series of warm-up matches. This is their schedule:

March 31: Mexico; April 7: Portugal; April 14: USSR; April 17: Romania; April 21: East Germany; April 28: Eire; May 1: Austria; May 5: Peru; and May 12: Paraguay.

All these matches will be played in Brazil.

After that, they will transfer to Europe where they will play in Basle, Strasbourg

and Ludwigshafen before, on June 6, settling in at their quarters, in Hofheim-Taunus, near Frankfurt.

At this stage, Zagallo's plans are secret.

However, certain players seem to select themselves, enjoying the manager's complete trust.

Goalkeeper Leao, defenders Ze Maria, Marco Antonio, Pereira, Piazza, midfielders Clodoaldo, Rivelino, Paulo Cesar, Dircen, and strikers Jairzinho and Valdissimo are almost certain travellers.

The great Pele-dispute, however, is still raging.

"Pele has announced his retirement and this must be respected," said Zagallo.

"However, should he change his mind, we'd welcome him with open arms."

"It's his type of leader that our team really needs."

Pele, meanwhile, is adamant.

Even a reported \$200,000 offer has failed to make him change his mind.

For the time being, anyway.

PRESS CORPS

About 2,100 journalists and 750 photographers have requested accreditation for the World Cup.

HAITIANS' BUSY MATCH SCHEDULE

Just compare Haiti's pre-World Cup warm-up to Australia's pathetic match practice.

While the Aussies must make do with inadequate opposition before they leave for Europe on May 20, this is the Haitians' program:

- v. Uruguay at Port-au-Prince on March 12 and 22;
- v. Zaire at Port-au-Prince on March 28 and 30;
- v. Chile at Port-au-Prince on April 14 and 18;
- v. Austria, Romania and East Germany, all of whom will stop-over in the Haitian capital on their way to South America in March and April;
- v. Zaire at Kinshasa on May 8 and 10.

After those two matches in Africa, the Haitian squad will go in camp in France where they will play several club sides before taking up residence in Munich on June 4.

East Germany, one of Australia's Group One opponents in the World Cup, are determined to be the "surprise" team of the tournament.

The communist state's original excitement at qualifying for the World Cup for the first time has now been slightly tempered by the political consequences of a draw which pits them against West Germany and Chile, and forces them to play against the Latin American side in West Berlin of all places.

The East German Football Federation is seriously concerned that the spectre of politics may overshadow sport in the early round matches.

At one stage, it seemed that East Germany might well withdraw from the competition altogether out of sympathy for the Soviet Union who were "excluded" from the World Cup series for refusing to take part in a play-off tie against Chile in Santiago last November.

INDIGNATION

Then East Germany rallied staunchly behind the Soviet cause and maintained a daily barrage of angry indignation in the Press over FIFA's decision to allow a match to be played in a stadium where, it claimed, "thousands of Chilean patriots were bestially tortured and murdered."

But in the end, neither East Germany nor Poland were prepared to miss the chance of taking part.

Withdrawal would undoubtedly have angered thousands of football fans in both States, and led to resentment against the Soviet Union.

Soccer has traditionally been one of the smaller guns in East Germany's massive sports armory, but it has always been the game with the biggest appeal to the people.

There was nation-wide jubilation in November when the news came through from Tirana that East Germany had beaten Albania 4-1 to reach the World Cup finals for the first time after four previous campaigns had floundered at the last hurdle.

On that same day, the East German under-23 side whipped Albania 6-0 in Potsdam to reach the quarter-finals of UEFA Nations' Cup.

And this was to be followed by further rejoicing when Lokomotive Leipzig broke another age-old hoodoo by becoming the first East German club to topple an English team, Wolverhampton Wanderers, from European competition.

POWERFUL

About the same time, Dynamo Dresden came within an ace of ousting the powerful West German side, Bayern Munchen, from the European Champions' Cup.

East Germany are no longer a footballing Cinderella.

They have made astonishing advances in recent years. Accustomed to success in most other sports, East German officials are wary about making any predictions as to how the team will fare in the World Cup. The soccer correspondent of "Neues Deutschland," the official Communist Party newspaper, said recently that World Cup qualification had marked the end of a successful phase, but the finals themselves posed a far more difficult task.

Experienced soccer commentators attribute the nation's blossoming football fortunes to a new, more rational youth policy, and to the painstaking, scientific approach to planning which has marked its success in other sports.

SUPER — GUNTER NETZER!

With his long hair, fashionable clothes, and fast cars, Gunter Netzer, 29, has all the trappings of the football playboy.

But for all his varied interests outside the game, his essential concern is soccer — as the Socceros will discover when Netzer lines up for World Cup favorites West Germany against Australia on June 18 in Hamburg.

This gloriously talented inside-left took control of the West German midfield in 1972 when Wolfgang Overath was unavailable and, with his speed, vision and technical excellence, gave full expression to manager Helmut Schoen's attacking policies.



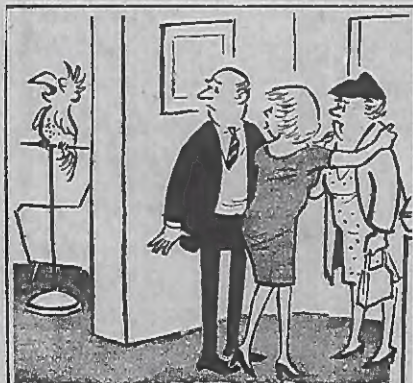
GUNTER NETZER

Slightly hunched as a result of a bent backbone, and of Viking appearance, Netzer can be a superbly confident general of the West German team, driving upfield with the ball at toe or spraying accurate passes to team-mates 70 metres or more away.

Despite his obvious talents, he had made only 14 appearances for the national team since between 1965 and 1970 because a side already possessing Beckenbauer and Overath had little need of a third orchestrator.

Netzer's chance came when Beckenbauer decided to play as a sweeper. His performances for Moenchengladbach demanded his inclusion in the midfield irrespective of the temperamental differences between himself and some more established stars.

His international career, however, suffered another setback when he signed for Real Madrid in 1973, but though he missed several international matches recently, his place in the World Cup side is secure.



"There goes my football... your mother's here... there goes my football... your mother's here!"

AUSTRALIA v. FERENCVAROS 1-2

'Rusty' Socceroos adequate in narrow loss

— By MIKE RENWICK —

The Australian team's first 1974 showing in Adelaide last Wednesday was adequate considering it was the Socceroos' first outing since they beat South Korea on November 13, 1973, in Hong Kong.

In patches, the team's performance exceeded normal expectations.

If one could find serious faults it was with the slow build-up of the attacks in the midfield and, once again, with the disjointed attack itself.

Even if one realizes that Australia in the World Cup will not be an adventurous attacking side, it must be questioned whether a purely defensive team will be able to survive almost constant pressure without being crushed.

Any defence, no matter how good that it may be, needs some relief from time to time and that must be provided by the strikers able to hold the ball for short periods at least.

In Adelaide, the Australians weren't very good at this.

The 4-4-2 formation (Abonyi and Buljevic being the two strikers) can only work when the midfielders behind the spearheads form an occasional second wave.

It's in this department that Australia must improve urgently.

Australia was perhaps a trifle unlucky to lose the match, in the last seven minutes, after appearing to have the Hungarians' measure.

However, the visitors' better condition told at the finish when they attacked with more resolution against the visibly tiring Socceroos, short of both match practice and stamina at this early part of their season.

Australia can take some comfort from the fact that they played better than against Bulgaria at the corresponding stage last year.

The match was a more than useful exercise, if only to get some of the "cobwebs" and kinks out of the World Cup squad, which badly needed the run.

Peter Wilson, Col Curran, Jim Mackay and Ray Baartz, in that order, were our best players.

Jim Fraser held his ground well, in the face of some dangerous raids in the first half and Milisavljevic was a worthy second half replacement.

The Ferencvaros we saw in Adelaide is a useful, technically fairly accomplished but far from great team.

And that's bad news for Australia.

It's safe to rate the Hungarian national team at least four goals better than that Ferencvaros, without Panchics and Albert.

Late last year, East Germany beat Hungary 1-0 in Budapest — and West Germany is rated at least three goals better than East Germany.

So how do we rate? Rather depressingly, one must assume, against both Germans.

In Adelaide, Ferencvaros fielded a basically young team with Martos, Viczko, Eipel and Magyar all teenagers.

To make things worse, one of their most creative players, "freeback" Balint had to play a passive role as a sweeper.

Thus it fell on the diligent, hard-working and talented Juhasz to prod his strikers into action and to create the chances, especially in the second half.

While Juhasz is a truly good player, a regular international, he is not a Beckenbauer and hardly enough to turn Ferencvaros into a great side.

Ku, this spindly-legged midfielder, did some clever things without being very effective; he seemed to lack stamina and dash to rule the midfield.

Up front centre striker Mate (pronounce as mah-tay) grabbed two goals and missed another two or three; Brankovits distributed some fine balls but failed to spell any danger at goal.

Wingers Szoke and Magyar showed speed and shooting power.

Australia: Fraser 4 (Milisavljevic, second half, 4), Ujtesenovic 3, Wilson 5, Schaefer 3 (Alston, second half, 3), Curran 5, Richards 3, Mackay 4, Rooney 3, (Warren 67 min.), Abonyi 3, Baartz 4, Buljevic 3.

Ferencvaros: Gezi 4, Martos 4, Viczko 4 (replaced Eipel 19 min.), Vepi 4, Juhasz 5, Balint 3, Szoke 4, Brankovits 3, Mate 3, Ku 4, Magyar 4.

Scorers: Mate 3 and 83 mins. for Ferencvaros; Eipel 9 min (own goal) for Australia.

Referee: D. Campbell. Crowd: 13,000, at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide.



A new dance craze? No, just Max Tolson and Laszlo Balint in curious, to say the least, poses as they vie for the ball during last Sunday's 0-0 draw between Australia and Ferencvaros.

ALBERT CAN'T PLAY IN AUST.

— By MIKE RENWICK —

Florian Albert, the great Hungarian star, won't play in the Sydney championship for St. George-Budapest.

Last week several newspaper stories announced that Albert would join the Saints later this year.

A check with both Albert and Ferencvaros president Janos Harot revealed this to be incorrect.

Albert will retire from active soccer on April 15 and on May 29, against Yugoslavia, will play his 75th match for Hungary.

In all probabilities he will stay on the field for 15 or 20 minutes before being replaced.

For his 75 internationals he will receive 30,000 forints (about \$900) from the Hungarian Association.

After that, as a retired player, he is free — but therein lies the hitch.

He will be allowed to come to Australia as a tourist; he cannot play, because, as a retired player, he won't be able to get a clearance.

"I can play in exhibition matches for the Saints, hold coaching clinics and do similar things but I won't play for them in the competition," Albert told me.

"I'll come the same way as I went a few years ago to Rio, at the invitation of Flamengo for a few weeks. This time, as then, my wife will come with me, but the kids stay home."

President Harot confirmed the news. He said Albert would be allowed to spend a few months in Australia, as "St. George's guest, but not as a player."

"Hungary cannot afford to create a dangerous precedent by allowing him to leave for overseas as a player," another Ferencvaros player told me privately.

"If Flori were allowed to come back here as a player, next day the Association in Budapest would receive another 100 applications from players like Bene, Dunai, Vidats and others to go overseas. And I'd be in the queue myself."

It will be interesting to see what the St. George club's reaction is to this turn of events.

Originally they had intended to bring Albert back as a full-time player, for seven or eight months.

However, they may feel that even as a guest, appearing in exhibition matches, he is "value" among Australian soccer fans.

Albert has been offered a position in the Ferencvaros management after his retirement, probably as "technical director."

He has not yet made up his mind whether to stay on with the club or to return to his former part-time occupation as a journalist and commentator.

Later this year his book, written in collaboration with Budapest journalist and former national team manager Jozsef Hoffer will appear in Budapest.

"It will be a hard-hitting book," Albert said, "not just one of those memoirs of matches and players."

ADELAIDE HIGHLIGHTS

— By LOU GAUTIER —

3 min.: The Adelaide hoodoo holds firm and Australia again concedes an early goal at Hindmarsh Stadium. A bad defensive error by Schaefer and Ujtesenovic lets Magyar slip a pass to Mate, who taps the ball past a helpless Jim Fraser. Ferencvaros 1, Australia 0.

6 min.: From Szoke's pinpoint centre Schaefer would have scored an own goal but for Fraser's miraculous full-length dive, which limits the damage to a corner.

9 min.: A brilliantly swerved Ujtesenovic freekick from 30 metres — a "Dougzie" special — and Eipel heads past his own goalkeeper to level the score. Australia 1, Ferencvaros 1.

26 min.: A great save by Fraser off Ku from a Magyar corner.

29 min.: Schaefer gives away a freekick, quickly taken by Szoke. Fraser comes out to fist the ball away, but only as far as Ku, whose 12-metre shot is blocked by Curran.

36 min.: A clever "1-2" between Brankovits and Ku rips the Australian defence wide open, forcing Fraser to come out to smother the ball.

37 min.: Wilson's header, off an Abonyi corner, causes confusion in the Hungarian goalmouth. A desperate lunge by Vepi, in the nick of time, clears the danger for Ferencvaros.

38 min.: Curran's overlap beats two defenders until Martos comes to the rescue by kicking the ball over the line for a corner. Abonyi's corner-kick is cleared by Juhasz.

43 min.: Schaefer fouls Brankovits. Szoke's powerful 50-metre drive rebounds off the well-grouped Australian "wall".

SECOND HALF

1 min.: Baartz tries his luck on the run from 35 metres; his cannon-shot is a couple of metres wide.

2 min.: Brankovits breaks away, passes to Szoke, whose low shot isn't far off target.

3 min.: Alston is through, with the goal at his mercy, but Vepi brings him down — and is booked. It was something like the Marnoch and Raddiffe fouls on Gary Mannel in the Ampol Cup.

5 min.: Szoke intercepts a bad pass by Baartz. Luckily, his hasty 30-metre shot sails over the bar.

9 min.: A brilliant run by Juhasz, who lays it on for Mate. The Australian defence is at sixes and sevens; a goal seems certain, but the Ferencvaros No 9, from eight metres, shoots over the bar.

13 min.: Buljevic "shlons" his way around three defenders, sends a lovely pass to Alston. "Noddy", however, has the ball taken from him by Martos, and a good Australian scoring chance goes begging.

14 min.: Curran to the rescue to break up a Brankovits-Szoke "1-2" with a corner.

16 min.: Rooney brings Juhasz down in the box. It could easily have been a penalty against Australia, but referee Don Campbell waves play on.

21 min.: A 30-metre speculator by Brankovits speeds past Milisavljevic's left post.

21 min.: Alston breaks away but loses the ball to Martos in a man-to-man duel almost on the goal line.

22 min.: A smart interchange of passes between Baartz and Alston wrongfoots the Ferencvaros defence, but the flag has gone up for "off-side".

24 min.: Ujtesenovic saves a difficult situation with a last-ditch clearance from the penalty spot after Ku had shaken off two defenders.

26 min.: Juhasz again slices through the Australian defence, passes to Mate, whose 16-metre angled drive is weak.

28 min.: Three Australian heads bob up in the Ferencvaros goalmouth from an Abonyi corner, but goalie Gezi has the last word.

35 min.: Baartz shakes off three tacklers and is through, but Curran's offside position ruins the chance.

36 min.: Baartz pounces on a loose midfield pass sends a long through-ball to Alston — who loses the ball to the ever-vigilant Vepi.

37 min.: Richards loses the ball to Brankovits, who breaks through. Milisavljevic races out to clear — just in time.

38 min.: Juhasz — that man again! — runs through the Australian defence, passes to Szoke on the right wing, who crosses, and Mate belts the ball in. Ferencvaros 2, Australia 1.

42 min.: Ferencvaros have a lucky let-off after being in all sorts of trouble in a packed goalmouth from Baartz's 19-metre freekick.

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This freekick in pouring rain by Branko Buljevic (No. 12) is saved by Ferencvaros' goalkeeper Istvan Gezi — much to the relief of an anxious Hungarian "wall" — last Sunday.

AUSTRALIA v. FERENCVAROS 0-0

AUSSIE STRIKERS LET THE SIDE DOWN — AGAIN

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Australia missed a glorious opportunity to score a rare victory against First Division European opponents when they drew 0-0 with Ferencvaros at the Sydney Sportsground last Sunday.

The Socceroos matched the Hungarians in every department, and would probably have won had they not paid Ferencvaros the undeserved compliment of regarding them too highly.

Ferencvaros, on Sunday's form, is possibly the most disappointing European team seen here since Cardiff City and Slavia Prague.

Even technically, some of their players, especially their younger brigade, were not superior to the Australians.

Lack of confidence cost the Socceroos a victory they would have deserved as they had the better of the play, though the big scoring chance of the match was Ferencvaros'.

Only Branikovichs knows how he could possibly have missed an open goal in the 73rd minute after he had skirted past two defenders and rounded the sprawling Jim Milisavljevic.

TRAVESTY

A Ferencvaros win would, however, have been a travesty of justice as they did precious little to force the decision.

They gave the impression they could have played right through the night without scoring.

But the Australians must share, at least equally, the blame for the match developing into a soporific affair, which incurred the slow-clapping of the crowd which should have been more indulgent because it is too early in the season for Australia to be seen at best advantage.

Our defence and the midfield, as usual, were competent. All the players in those departments did all that was expected of them, even combining attractively at times, but, oh, the strikers...

No matter what combination Rale Rasic tried in the second half, when three strikers were substituted, the result was always as depressing.

Hardly a move was concluded as players invariably lost the ball, stepped over it or gave a pass straight to the Hungarians.

CONFIDENCE

It would be nice if occasionally some of our players tried to take on the opposition. By now they should have enough confidence to try their luck as they do in club football.

Some of our players just have to take their responsibilities and lose their timidity when they get close to goal.

Rale Rasic said after the match he was "happy" with his team's performance and that the players had followed instructions well.

"They are still only 60% fit. It was a big improvement on Adelaide. We'll get better still," he said.

Rasic had his team playing 4-4-2 in both matches to get ready for the battles ahead in Germany where it will be vital for the Socceroos to avoid humiliating defeats.

He has every reason to be satisfied with the manner in which the team adapted to the system at the rear, but the two strikers — an important part of the 4-4-2 pattern — flopped badly.

To successfully play the 4-4-2 a team must have fast, decisive strikers.

None of the players chosen for these difficult tasks in Adelaide or in Sydney filled the bill adequately.

I only counted three Australian shots at goal at the Sportsground!

The most heartening aspect of the match was the

improved form of several key defenders and midfielders, who played much better than in Adelaide.

Schaefer and Utjesenovic showed the benefit of a tough midweek match and were almost back to their reliable best.

Peter Wilson, like in Adelaide, was the best Socceroo. But, then, when does he not rise to the occasion when he plays for Australia?

Curran, Jim Mackay, Ray Baartz and Rooney also showed up well, I thought.

They were the equal of their Ferencvaros counterparts, none of whom, Juhasz again excepted, looked too classy.

LOYALTY

Campbell, Warren, Buljevic, Tolson, Alston, and to a lesser degree, Abonyi, disappointed.

I would be surprised if Rasic, despite his loyalty to all the players who served him so well in Australia's qualifying campaign, does not bring in some new

strikers into his World Cup squad.

Some players have had ample opportunity to win their berth for West Germany, but have been unable to grab their chance with both feet.

Let's give some others a chance: they couldn't do much worse, even considering there is not all that much to choose from in forward talent in Australia.

Referee Tony Boskovic had a first-class game, again convincing one and all that his selection to the World Cup panel was more than justified and long overdue.

Australia: Fraser 4 (Milisavljevic 4), Utjesenovic 4, Wilson 5, Schaefer 4, Curran 4, Richards 3 (Abonyi 37 min.), Warren 3 (Mackay 4), Baartz 4, Rooney 4, Campbell 3 (Tolson 70 min.), Alston 3 (Buljevic 3).

Ferencvaros: Gezi 4, Martos 4, Mucha 3, Vepi 4, Juhasz 5, Balint 3, Szoke 4, Branikovichs 4, Mate 3, Ku 3, Magyar 3 (Eipel 3).

Referee: A. Boskovic. Crowd: 15,945 at Sydney Sportsground.

SYDNEY MATCH DIARY

SECOND HALF

1 min.: Peter Wilson pushes out across field in a tight defensive position and Istvan Szoke takes the first shot of the game, a deflection which Fraser easily holds.

3 min.: Australia's chance follows: a long Richards throw into Ferencvaros' box. Gezi punches it away, and Baartz directs his shot half a metre over the crossbar.

5 min.: Rooney works a perfect move with Baartz and Alston, but the latter's offside ruined a marvellous movement.

7 min.: Ferencvaros apply the pressure through Szoke and Branikovichs to force a corner.

11 min.: Wilson stops Szoke with a no-nonsense tackle to give away a 25 metre freekick. Rooney concedes the corner to relieve pressure.

14 min.: Mate brilliantly turns the ball to round Wilson, but no-one is there to greet his cross.

15 min.: Juhasz concedes a corner from Richards' header. Peter Wilson is up for the action but his big forward jump brings a collision and a freekick against him.

17 min.: Laszlo Branikovich is sent away up the right. He chops the ball into touch by mistake.

19 min.: Utjesenovic sends a lovely ground ball to Ernie Campbell. Vepi's sudden acceleration robs Campbell of opportunity and ball.

23 min.: Branikovichs fouls Warren, the ball comes through to Campbell, to Alston, who sides it off a Ferencvaros player for a corner.

25 min.: A great reverse direction pass from Ray Baartz deep in midfield to the advancing Curran, but the Hungarian defence holds well.

30 min.: Ferencvaros move well in left wing foray, Branikovichs, Magyar and clever Ku doing the damage. Richards went in the Boskovic book for foul on Ku.

1 min.: Istvan Szoke had no trouble moving through the right wing, skewing a dangerous cross in amongst three of his own forwards. Jimmy Milisavljevic excelled himself by scuttling down after the ball and pushing it out of danger.

6 min.: Ernie Campbell, who spent the first half passing, finally decided to take the defence on, and succeeded at attempt No. 1.

8 min.: Rooney tried a long cross pass, but Richards failed to capitalise on the advantage.

9 min.: A long low shot from Baartz, and seconds later Istvan Juhasz cuts off an attempt by Baartz to race clear in the centre.

11 min.: Abonyi is the replacement for Richards as steady rain brings the umbrellas up.

15 min.: Mate makes the Hungarians' most dangerous break so far. Feet first, Jimmy Milisavljevic saves to push the ball away for a corner.

16 min.: Jim Mackay has the crowd with him when he tried a 35-metre "Hong Kong" special. Istvan Gezi makes a clean catch, and it was all and-cinemas.

20 min.: Branko Buljevic goes the wrong way after Abonyi tried one of his clever moves. The rain turns to torrents.

24 min.: Macdonald, Abonyi and Baartz streak away, but into the Hungarian cover defence.

25 min.: Laszlo Branikovich gets a dangerous cross from the right, but Doug Utjesenovic heads away over the goal-line to kill the move.

29 min.: Szoke steers past two men but Milisavljevic is there, and then Branikovichs, in quick succession, misses the opening of the match.

33 min.: Max Tolson, of all people, gets fouled twice running! Buljevic pile-drives the freekick. It spills out of Gezi's arms, but not far enough ahead to give the monomane Aussie forwards a shot.

— KEITH GILMOUR

FERENCVAROS

WIN 4-2

IN NEWCASTLE

After suffering two early setbacks from shock Northern NSW goals Ferencvaros settled down to play precise and confident football and defeated their inexperienced opponents 4-2.

Former Australian international Ron Giles gave Northern supporters some hope against the visitors when he headed a goal after only 12 minutes.

But the visitors quickly equalised when Martos hammered through a goal four minutes later.

Ferencvaros reeled when immediately from the kick-off Bogdan Duma slammed through a shot after good lead-up work by Giles for a 2-1 lead.

But two goals from Juhasz had the Hungarians leading 3-2 at the interval.

A lone goal by Lajos Ku minutes into the second half gave Ferencvaros a 4-2 lead and the final score of the match.

The visitors were content for the remaining 35 minutes of the match to practice their ball skills, but the locals were far from disgraced at any stage of an entertaining match.

Ferencvaros 4: 1. Juhasz 2, L. Ku, G. Martos; Northern NSW 2: R. Giles, B. Duma, at Wallsend. Crowd: 6,000.

THE SCORECARD

	AUSTRALIA			FERENCVAROS		
	First half	Second half	Total	First half	Second half	Total
Goals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shots at Goal	1	3	4	1	2	3
Shots outside	0	0	0	1	1	2
Freekicks	10	9	19	7	6	13
Throw-ins	13	10	23	5	16	21
Offside	1	1	2	2	0	2
Corners	5	1	6	7	5	12
Penalties	0	0	0	0	0	0

— EINAR PERSEN



Impressive European statistics

The UEFA, Europe's governing body, announces the following statistics for 1973: 33 affiliated national associations, 20,000 clubs, 324,000 teams, 12 million players and 250,000 referees.

"Minnow" tag upsets Swedes

The Swedish Press is furious with FIFA for lumping its national team with Australia, Haiti and Zaïre amongst the "minnows" when the World Cup draw was made last month. "Svenska Dagbladet", of Malmo, wrote: "Sweden would beat either of those teams by five goals. Scotland or East Germany, not Sweden, ranked second in Europe last year and a finalist in 1970, should have received the tag of also-ran for draw purposes. We must now avenge the insult by reaching the last eight in Germany. Nothing less will restore our dignity!"

Yugoslav "spring cleaning"

Yugoslavia are "spring cleaning" their soccer, according to official circles. It really means they are investigating corruption, bribery and many more criminal activities in the game and the revelations promise to be shattering. Referees, it is said, have been in the habit of accepting large bribes in order to allow certain clubs to win League matches and when it's not cash and table topping, it's gifts of fur coats to referees' wives to save teams from relegation. Already the Yugoslavs have turned up a series of bribes in the 1971 European Championship. The Government investigation will eventually report on the entire scene of corruption as it affects players, referees, officials and businessmen.

North Koreans' Russian tour

The North Korean national team will play four matches in the Soviet Union and two in Bulgaria as a warm-up for the Asian Games in Tehran in September. The Koreans are confident they will be allowed to take part in the Games for the first time. Their application for Asian Games membership is expected to be considered in March. If they take part they will be the favorites, with Iran, for the soccer gold medal.

● Vital Loraux, the Belgian who refereed Australia's World Cup match against South Korea in Sydney, was in charge of the Spain v. Yugoslavia World Cup play-off in Frankfurt this week.

● Ujpest have again sacked their coach. This time it's Varhidi who got the bullet. In the last four years they have had four different coaches — Gyula Szucs, Imre Kovacs, Lajos Baroti and Varhidi.



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China's readmission to FIFA will be examined at the world body's congress in Frankfurt before the start of the World Cup finals. FIFA has reaffirmed its stand concerning the Asian Games in Tehran in September: the soccer tournament can have no official standing if the Iranian organising committee goes ahead with its intention of inviting China to participate.

● This week's quarterfinals of the West German Cup are: Bayern Munchen v. Hannover; Wattenscheid v. Hamburger SV; Offenbach v. Kaiserslautern; Frankfurt v. FC Koln.

● On May 21 FIFA will celebrate its 70th birthday. On June 15 the UEFA will be 20 years old.

● East Germany, Bulgaria, Poland and Brazil have chosen Czechoslovakia as pre-World Cup sparring-partners. The Czechs, who meet England and Portugal in the European Championship will also play against the Soviet Union, Hungary and Romania this year. Their association has decided to play more often against fellow Iron Curtain countries.

● National team goalkeeper Maric is Yugoslavia's Player of the Year, according to a poll conducted by the Belgrade newspaper "Echo". He obtained 119 votes, 14 more than Oblak. Another Belgrade paper, "Youth", has chosen Red Star winger Petrovic as the outstanding junior of 1973.

Franz Beckenbauer will finish his career with Bayern Munchen. The 29-year-old superstar two weeks ago signed a contract tying him to the Bavarian club until 1979. Beckenbauer joined Bayern as a 13-year-old schoolboy.

● Two major transfers in Yugoslavia: OFK Belgrade international Stepanovic has joined Red Star and Proleter's goalie, Sarovic, has gone to Dinamo Zagreb.

● The great Luigi Riva, Italy's celebrated striker, suffered a serious injury and may be out of action for several weeks.

● In Sicily fighting and brawling broke out in a local match with the result that the referee sent off one of the home players and threatened to send more off if trouble continued. At this point one of the fans pulled out a shot-gun, pointed it at the chest of the match official who waved the dismissed player back onto the pitch. The home side won 7-0 and the police are still searching for the man with the gun!

● Pele is now a fully qualified physical education instructor. He passed his exams in Sao Paulo with flying colors (second in a class of 109). Top of the class was former international goalkeeper Leao. "I want to teach the kids when I retire," he announced at the graduation ceremony. Pele's last match for Santos will be in mid-October.

● Meetings are now in progress in Scotland to reshape the structure of the Scottish leagues. The big clubs are proposing the First and Second Division to contain only 10 clubs and a new Third Division to include 18 teams. A two-thirds majority will be required to push the reforms through.

● When will English and Scottish League club players wear shirts advertising branded products? Already West German club, HSV Hamburg, have signed a contract worth around \$150,000 to advertise Campari, the Italian drink, on the shirts and shorts of their players.

● Brazil's World Cup squad play a warm-up match against a Combined Ireland side in Rio, April 28. Anglos should take up many places... and what price, George Best?

● Greece's mediocre soccer will get a boost from the FA's decision to make Pele's brilliant instructional film compulsory viewing at least 10 times for all the country's registered under-21 players.

● Bulgaria's national team is now in Kuwait for three matches against the local side, coached by Lou Brodic. The Bulgarians have just spent three weeks in camp on Cyprus.

● The Yugoslav federation has rehabilitated top referee Gugulovic, in disgrace for some time for his alleged part in a bribe scandal.

● Clubs from Belo Horizonte are completely dominating the final stages of the Brazilian National League with Cruzeiro, Atletico and America filling the top three places with six rounds remaining. The big Rio clubs, Vasco de Gama and Fluminense, are faring poorly.

● West Germany beat France 3-2 in an amateur international at Quimper.

● Waldi Holdorf, the 1964 Olympic decathlon winner, has been appointed trainer of West German Bundesliga team Fortuna Dusseldorf, the current wooden-spooners.

● FIFA will no longer grant authorisation for matches involving so-called "World XI's", which are all the rage when testimonials are staged. The only "World team" from now on will be FIFA's very own — when they hold their bi-annual "World Soccer Day", which is to be held in Bogota, Colombia, next year.

● The financial situation of reigning Belgian champions, FC Bruges, is reported to be catastrophic. The club is said to be some \$1 million in the red, and may even fold up next season.

● The moat surrounding Rome's Olympic stadium will be widened to 2.50 metres to prevent a repetition of the crowd violence and invasion of the pitch which have marred several games there in recent months involving both local First Division clubs, AS Roma and Lazio.

● Spanish national team coach Laszlo Kubala is being tipped to become manager of Real Madrid, who recently sacked long-serving coach Miguel Munoz. The Yugoslav, Milan Milanovic, is also regarded as a possible replacement, though it will be hard for him to get away from Yugoslavia.

● The Italian World Cup squad members meet in Rome at the end of the month to decide on what percentage of Italy's share of the profits in the finals they will seek. Some are considering splitting 50-50 with the FA!

● Milan AC manager Nereo Rocco will again have to pay a fine for criticising the linesmen and the referee in a recent league match. He has been fined \$500 — his fifth fine in four years.

WINTERBOTTOM KEEN TO WATCH AUSSIES

— By MIKE RENWICK —

Walter Winterbottom finds little time for soccer nowadays.

This, in the case of the former England team supremo, is somewhat of a surprise.

I met the pleasant, congenial Winterbottom at Christchurch during the Commonwealth Games.

As executive director of the British Sports Council, he attended together with his president, Dr. Roger Bannister, the former great runner, now a London neurologist.

"Running the Council takes up just about all my time," Winterbottom said. "Of course, I still love soccer but hardly find the time for it. We look after all sports in the Council."

Winterbottom left his post with the Football Association shortly after the 1962 World Cup.

He was tipped to become the FA's secretary — but the position went instead to Denis Follows.

"It was a bit of politics," he recalled. "I was typecast as a Rous-man and they were afraid of the 'old man' having too much indirect influence."

"So I accepted this job which I really find most satisfying."

Now over 60, and a grandfather, Winterbottom still recalls vividly his most traumatic experience — England's 3-6 defeat against Hungary at Wembley in 1953.

"That was a phenomenal team that beat us," he said. "Every player an artist, the whole team like a smooth machine."

"Mind you, we had four 'new caps' in the England team on the day — forced on me by the nine selectors."

"Ramsey had a somewhat easier task — after my departure and endless arguments with the selectors, they abolished that monstrosity."

Winterbottom will be there at the World Cup — as a FIFA observer.

"Together with Alan Wade, Dettmar Cramer and some others, we have been requested to study the matches and compile a technical report later," he said.

"So if not sooner, than during the World Cup, I look forward to seeing the Australian team."

● Fenerbahe, the Turkish team coached by former Brazilian great, Didi, last week won an international indoor tournament in West Berlin in which Hertha Berlin, Grasshoppers Zurich, Moenchengladbach, Werder Bremen and Rapid Vienna also took part. Average attendance for the three days was a capacity 14,000 spectators.

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AMPOL CUP 1974

"MAKE-OR-BREAK" ROUND

COMING UP THIS WEEK

— By LOU GAUTIER —

The Ampol Cup resumes this weekend with Round 4 after a 12-day "international" break — with two Friday double-headers and an explosive Pan Hellenic v. APIA on Sunday at Wentworth Park.

With only one round to go after this week, the fate of several teams could be decided by late Sunday afternoon.

The teams are so bunched up in both groups that nine of them still have a chance of making the semifinals, more perhaps if Safeway and Yugal-Prague also break-through for their first win this week.

This attractive round should further lift attendances which now stand at 36,600 spectators.

With two rounds and the semifinals and the final, played on separate Sundays, still to come, last year's total Ampol attendance of 51,000 is sure to go by the board.

The outlooks as I see them:

Pan Hellenic v. APIA

Sunday's late game looms as the best match of the round.

Pan Hellenic have been playing some good football this season, which bears the stamp of coach Rale Rasic. Agenor Muniz and Gary Manuel have never played better.

The Brazilian is starting to show why he was so highly rated when he first hit the Sydney scene, and Manuel is now confirming the splendid potential he showed as a youngster with Prague some five years ago.

The return of Rokko Ile will further strengthen Hellenic, who will be slightly favored to win.

The APIA team is gradually taking shape and is improving with every outing.

APIA is playing methodically, though it may be some time before all their new signings reach peak form.

At the moment their fortunes rest with Jim Rooney, Peter Ollerton, Mal Clarke and "flankmen" Butler and Blues.

Croatia v. Wests

Croatia could possibly make it to the semifinals for the first time if they beat Wests on Sunday.

On paper there's not much between the two teams, but on current form Mike Kiss' team is well in front.

Croatia have been playing some good stuff and will be hard to beat again this week.

Wests' ambitions will have to remain modest until they can sign up some stronger strikers as they can't expect to go forward with a skeletal forward line which lacks finishing power.

They should have no problems in defence now that Steve Perry has linked up with Col Curran to give them one of the classiest defences in the business.



DENNIS YAAGER

Croatia get our nod, but there shouldn't be too many goals scored at Wentworth Park.

Perhaps the only goal will win it.

Safeway v. Auburn

A win on Friday night would almost certainly clinch a semifinal spot for Joe Marston's Auburn lads, whose performances in the series have been encouraging.

Pat Deller has gained in stature and confidence since joining Auburn and together with David Keddie and the talented Gary Quested, Auburn can boast now of a menacing trio of strikers capable of taking on any defence.

The Auburn defence, with "old faithfuls" Hucker and Malone as solid as ever, is also performing more than creditably.

Safeway certainly are having more than their share of problems, but there is too much class there for undue despondency at this stage.

Better days will soon be here for United, whose premiership chances can't be dismissed because of a poor start to the season.

Auburn usually does well at Woonona.

This week may be no exception despite the provincials' determination to get back on the winning track.

Marconi v. Canterbury

Canterbury have served fair warning that they are anything but a pushover.

The Berries have been the revelation of the season to date and are not likely to be overawed unduly by Marconi's reputation at Woonona.

Marconi will welcome

Ray Richards back on Friday.

After two Ferencvaros matches under his belt, the midfield star should have no trouble carrying on where he left off last season.

He will add drive and inspiration to the Marconi midfield and should make it easier for the strikers to get amongst the goals.

All eyes will again be on Ray Pocock, who with Gary Manuel is the "in-form" striker of the moment — and a candidate for World Cup selection if he keeps it up.

Young Ross Brown, too, will be a threat.

The Berries may have hit the jack-pot with the ex-Belmore "unknown", who together with Larry Armytage has looked good.

This is a vital match for both teams as the loser will probably drop out of semifinal calculations.

St. George v. Yugal-Prague

Saints were at their sizzling best to beat Safeway 3-0 at Woonona in the last round.

A repetition of that form would probably account for the disappointing Yugal-Prague at Garside Park on Friday.

It's just as well Yugal have had 12 days to recover from their amazing first half collapse against Canterbury, whose strikers Pocock and Brown ripped their defence apart to score four goals in 25 minutes.



JOHN McDONALD

It would pay coach Dacevski to include Sasha Perry in his line-up straight from the kick-off.

The fair-haired striker gave an outstanding performance when he came on midway through the half to revitalise the attack.

Without Ivo Rudic, Yugal's defence has a shaky, tentative look about it, which St. George is bound to exploit unless the gaps are plugged.

Though anything is possible with Yugal, it looks like a St. George win in a match which should produce soccer for the connoisseur.

Hakoah v. Sutherland

This is Hakoah's big chance to at last break-through for their first Ampol Cup win.

Though the holders have yet to show anything like their best form, they should account for the gallant, but terribly limited Sutherland.



ALAN MAHER

Hakoah's defence should be untroubled to subdue their young opponents, but it mightn't be so easy for their forwards to score freely.

Alan Maher is in brilliant form in the Sutherland goal. If it wasn't for him, Sutherland would probably have conceded a dozen goals by now.

Hakoah, traditionally slow starters every season, will only have themselves to blame if they are still without a win after Friday's early match at Garside Park.

Sutherland's youngsters will fight till they drop, but there's no substitute for experience and coach Jimmy Livingstone has a mammoth job ahead of him to save the club from relegation in 1974.

AMPOL TABLES

GROUP "A"									
	W	D	L	F	A	P			
Croatia	2	1	—	6	3	5			
Pan Hellenic	1	2	—	6	3	4			
APIA	2	—	1	4	2	4			
Hakoah	—	3	—	3	3	3			
Wests	—	1	2	3	2	—			
Sutherland	—	—	3	2	9	—			

GROUP "B"									
	W	D	L	F	A	P			
Auburn	2	1	—	3	1	5			
Canterbury	2	—	1	7	5	4			
Marconi	1	2	—	3	1	4			
St. George	1	1	1	4	2	3			
Safeway	—	1	2	2	6	1			
Yugal-Prague	—	1	2	3	7	1			

OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF NSW FEDERATION

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Hakoah v. Sutherland — Garside Park, 7.45 p.m.
St. George v. Yugal-Prague — Garside Park, 9.15 p.m.
Marconi v. Canterbury — Woonona Oval, 7.45 p.m.
Safeway v. Auburn — Woonona Oval, 9.15 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Wests v. Croatia — Wentworth Park, 3 p.m.
APIA v. Pan Hellenic — Wentworth Park, 4.30 p.m.

NEXT WEEK

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Yugal-Prague v. Auburn — Garside Park, 7.45 p.m.
Croatia v. Pan Hellenic — Garside Park, 9.15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Wests v. Sutherland — Marconi Oval, 7.45 p.m.
Marconi v. Safeway — Marconi Oval, 9.15 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

St. George v. Canterbury — Wentworth Park, 3 p.m.
Hakoah v. APIA — Wentworth Park, 4.30 p.m.

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MORROW
TRACEY

SUTHERLAND

MAHER
BRANSON
BENNETT
R. GRIFFITHS
WYKES
BOURKE
TRAIL
THOMSON
SUGGETT
COOPER
CACCIOLO

ST. GEORGE

FRASER
UTJESNOVIC
COTON
SCHAEFER
HARRIS
STODART
HERON
ABONYI
WARREN
HAMILTON
J. McDONALD

YUGAL-PRAGUE

TUINAAN
TRUKLIA
S. McDONALD
VELKOVSKI
NACINOVIC
ROOTSEY
J. ALAGICH
MIHAJLOVIC
TAKAC
SERDAREVIC
SELVAGE

MARCONI

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ROBERTSON
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RICHARDS
JONES
SAMUEL
CAMPBELL
BRAJKOVIC
A. GRIFFITHS
BYRNE

CANTERBURY

HAWTHORNE
G. BROWN
HARDY
HENDERSON
XIPOLITAS
MULLEN
BALAFAS
ASBATHAGE
POCOCK
R. BROWN
WELTON

SAFWAY

HESFORD
ROBERTS
WILSON
TUCKERMAN
ALLISON
DUNLOP
McGROTTY
BINGHAM
TOLSON
ALSTON
RIGBY

AUBURN

HOSZOWSKI
LAWSON
HUGHES
MALONE
HUCKER
LEAK
QUESTED
STEWART
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PARKER

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BLUES
WALLACE
OLLERTON
ROONEY
ROGERS

PAN HELLENIC

MEIR
IZATT
RUDIC
BARBOULTIS
BELL
STOWELL
MUNIZ
ILLE
HARDING
MANUEL
ILLE

NEW JUNIOR BODIES WELCOMED

A meeting representing the junior soccer movement of all states has set up the Australian Junior Soccer Council, and the schools will bring their first National School-boy Association into being at their meeting in March.

The double-pronged attack has been widely welcomed in soccer circles, as progress in both areas has been long awaited.

The Australian Junior Soccer Council will consist of one delegate from each State, plus a president and secretary appointed by the Australian Soccer Federation.

First incumbents of the executive positions are Dr. Rod Jory, of ACT, as chairman, and Brian Emery, of NSW, as secretary.

Dr. Jory has played a leading role in the rise of junior football in Canberra as well as representing the ACT at national senior level, whilst Emery's experience reaches right through from district association to top appointments.

There is much greater significance in the new organisation structure than is

apparent at first sight, and there are undoubtedly benefits for the long-term prospects of the sport.

It is impossible to secure adequate junior progress without the juniors having the right and the opportunity to conduct their own affairs.

Some State Federations have felt a compulsion to improve controls upon their juniors to the nth degree, whereas the accent always needed to be on giving them the freedom and the resultant incentive to grow.

The new organisation should provide the answers to this subtle but utterly vital problem.

The reversal back to the "junior" tag in the main title actually is a mere repetition of history.

Where it leaves the senior amateurs of the country is

probably better not discussed at this moment of real triumph for general commonsense in junior operation.

It will probably be well past due time when those problems receive their attention.

Each State Junior Federation will pay \$100 affiliation fee. States will separately discuss payment of a 20 cents per player contribution to national funds for each registered player under 16 years of age.

Expenses

In future the juniors will have to fund their own meeting expenses, a charge that the ASF has met in recent times.

A deal of the funds raised will be used to conduct the national championships.

The proposed venues this year give the championships a very desirable promotional slant.

Subject to confirmation by the individual States, the schedule will be: Under-12, ACT; Under-13, Western Australia; Under-14, Tasmania; Under-15, South Australia.

The ASF will separately run the under-16 National Youth Championships with Perth as the probable location, and Newcastle as second choice.

On the schools front, delegates from school bodies in all States will meet in Sydney on Friday/Saturday March 15/16 with a view to setting themselves up nationally.

The meeting will be chaired by Mr. F. Degen, Deputy-Principal of Banks town Boys High School, and the Acting Honorary Secretary is Mr. R. D. Quimby (Castle Hill High School), secretary of the NSW CHS Soccer Coaches Association.

Amongst the speakers will be National Coaching Director Eric Worthington, NSW CHS Soccer Convenor Mr. J. Dodd, and Mr. Rod Weiss.

Each State will report on its own progress, and then the meeting will deal with matters of formation, objectives, office-bearers, tours and finance.

Large business houses have been invited to contribute \$100 each to defray costs of this important meeting, and already there has been a very worthwhile response.

The meeting will assume tremendous significance if the English schoolboy team tours this winter as is expected.

Indeed, forward planning will be required towards visits to and from other home countries and European school sides, who have sufficient backing in the Australian community to become substantial drawcards here.

Enzo Frederici and Dilvo Tinagli.

Left-winger Roland Sommer is in Germany on a business trip, but is expected to return in time for the start of the competition.

Most of Inter's home games this year will be played at North Sydney Oval, which has been re-turfed and drained to eliminate the big mud patch in the middle of the ground.

— CHARLES SPITERI

Corinthians back at Jubilee Oval

After the elusive amalgamation with Hawks United fell through, Corinthians Soccer Club is certain to revert to Jubilee Oval for their home matches this season.

The club was prepared to venture out in the suburbs to pursue a permanent home, but after the Hawks failed to come to the party there was some soul-searching to be done.

Parklea Academy, where Corinthians played last year, was too distant a location for some of the players and officials.

The proximity of Jubilee Oval to the city is a better proposition and a switch will be made soon as the ground is understood to be available after April 1.

Corinthians have appointed Martin Asherton, a FA Coaching Certificate holder, to manage their three teams this season.

Asherton appeared for Bristol City and Northampton in his playing days, and has had coaching experience with non-league clubs in the south of England.

He migrated to Australia about eight months ago.

Training has started at Trumper Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6.30 and 8.30 p.m.

More players are required for both first and second grades and those interested can attend sessions at the ground.

President of the club for 1974 is Jim Cooper, who has been on the club committee for many years.

New secretary is Laurie Mathews, who will be tackling the job for the first time.

Rafanelli quits

Stefan Rafanelli, the talented Yugosl player on loan to North Sydney-Inter for the past two seasons, will not be turning up for them this year.

The club, which has been struggling in the lower half of the table for the past two years, retained the rest of last year's players, but younger players will be making their way into the side.

Training started two weeks ago at Cammeray Park, under dual coaches

TOUR WITH A DIFFERENCE!

The Australian under-23 team's visit to Indonesia in March will be a tour with a difference.

The objective is not so much to produce the nation's best under-23 team — in fact, a quota of the 20 selected players will be drawn so as to give some representation to every State.

Coming as it does at the outset of the season, the tour has led some of Sydney's club managers to consider holding their players out, but others will be glad to release them for the experience they will gain.

In any case Sydney will release no more than one player per club.

The Australian-under 23s will play five matches — three in Indonesia and two in Australia.

The first match will be against the national team on Tuesday, March 26, and then they jet away to Jakarta on the Thursday.

The team returns home on Tuesday, April 9, and the following night they will again be able to show their wares against the Australian side — also at the Sportsground.

Eric Worthington, coach of the under-23s, is faced with the impossible task of effectively selecting players whose clubs stretch through from Perth to Hobart and Brisbane.

He will lean on the State coaches and coaching directors for an appraisal of the leading under-23 play-

ers in their respective States. The players are to be provided in order of ability first, and in positions second.

RASIC'S HELP

Rale Rasic will also be pointing out a number of young stars from his knowledge.

Even under these imperfect conditions of selection — and it has to be allowed that distance does bring its problems — it should still be possible to come up with a good first team.

The measure of success in the selections will be to produce a side with as short a tail as possible.

The State men will certainly recommend their best under-23s, as this is the only way in which they can get the benefits which the tour will bring.

The tour is Government-sponsored as Australia's contribution to the Pacific Area Travel Association conference in Indonesia.

Over there a footballer is just about the biggest thing on the horizon, so we will certainly need to field a team that will do our country proud.

— KEITH GILMOUR

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COOK'S TOUR OF MELBOURNE

Fourth round fixtures for the Ampol Cup matches this Saturday night are as follows:

Polonia v. Alexander.
SM-Hellas v. Wilhelmina.

Soccer pools are likely to be legalised in Victoria in March of this year, but it will be some time yet before any decision on who will run the pools is decided or what the VSF's share will be. Several of the leading British pools promoters have shown interest in handling the Victorian pools.

George Cross, who not unexpectedly lost their opening Ampol Cup game to Alexander after being well below full strength, should be better prepared for their second match with Hakoah on February 23. Their two Dundee players — John Gardner and Tommy Fox, who have been back in their home town on extended holidays — should be fit and ready to resume.

Steve Atkins, the former Crystal Palace, Wilhelmina and Box Hill striker now with Mooroolbark, has changed his mind about joining Metropolitan side Caulfield City and will stay with the Barkers, who won promotion to the State League.

JANCZYK GOES HOME

Vic Janczyk, one of the greatest players ever to play for Polonia, recently left Australia to settle back in Warsaw.

Brian Thom, the tall former Clydebank and Hearts striker who has been with Wilhelmina for the past three years, is reported to be on the verge of joining a Sydney side. So far no details are at hand.

Eric Thompson, a young striker from Workington in England who has been playing with Merton in Queensland, has joined George Cross.

With Ronnie Brown back, Alexander now have six Scots in their line-up and this could be added to any tick of the clock as the Greek side have hopes of landing another Scottish player soon.

Ulysses Kokkinos, the former South Melbourne-Hellas striker who recently returned to Australia as a free agent, signed for Alexander on a lucrative one-season contract. He had a dream debut for his new club against George Cross by scoring and making the other two in their 3-1 win over George Cross. Kokkinos, now 27, who broke his leg twice in his previous stint in Victorian soccer with Hellas, got his free transfer from Panterakos in the Greek Second Division after scoring the two goals in their last game of the season which saved the club from relegation in 1973.

UNHAPPY COME-BACK

Nick Van Egmond, the big Wilhelmina goalkeeper who spent all last season on the touchline after a dispute with the club over playing terms, and who was replaced by the veteran Tom Carmichael, had an unhappy comeback against Slavia when his side were beaten by Johnny Sanchez's charges.

George Cross have a promising Maltese trio of youngsters in Cutjar, Kandy and Scicluni.

Nick Racovalis, the long-serving Alexander defender who has regularly been by-passed for the State side, is now captain of his team.

Roger Lamb has succeeded George Pedlar now back "home" in Sydney as president of the Victorian Soccer Referees' Association. Roger, in turn, who was secretary, has handed his brief over to Colin Tuffield.

Despite persistent pre-season rumors of the imminent formation of a bogus soccer league supposed to pose a threat to the State League and even the proposed National League of 1975, I can find no real substance of such a move. Anyway, I'm certain that none of the State League clubs would be so foolish to support such a move — and without some State League support the idea has "Buckley's chance" of ever bearing fruition.

BOB GOUGH DEAD

I have to report the passing of Bob Gough, a former Hakoah and JUST goalkeeper, who died recently at the age of 50 after a lingering illness. Bob, who came to Australia in 1952 after playing for the Royal Navy team in England, had his spell with Hakoah and JUST in the mid-fifties and some time later became a referee. "Soccer World" extends its sympathy to his widow and son.

Jimmy Pygrolis, who gave South Melbourne-Hellas great service first as a winger and then as a midfield player and who rejoined the club last year as coach after a stint with Metro side Western Suburbs, is now re-registered with Hellas as a player — a move which will only be temporary as he is returning soon to Greece.

— JIM COOK

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